

Remarks

Claims 21-25, 36-37, and 67-80 were pending. By way of this response, claims 23-25, 76, 79, and 80 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 21, 22, 36, 37, 67-75, 77, and 78 are pending.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's holding that all of the pending claims, that is claims 21, 22, 36, 37, 67-75, 77, and 78, are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 76 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant does not agree with the rejection or the remarks made by the Examiner. However, to advance the prosecution of the subject application, claim 76 has been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, the rejection of claim 76 is moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 23-25 and 79-80 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Quinn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,632,440).


Although claims 23-25 and 79-80 have been cancelled, for the record, applicant traverses the rejection as it relates to those claims.

Applicant submits that Quinn et al. is not prior art with respect to the above-identified patent application, and therefore, Quinn et al. cannot be used to reject the present claims.

In conclusion, applicant has shown that the present claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and are not anticipated by the prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, applicant submits that the present claims, that is claims 21, 22, 36, 37, 67-75, 77, and 78, are allowable. Therefore, applicant requests the Examiner to pass the above-identified application to issuance at an early date. Should any matters remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to call (collect) applicant's attorney at the telephone number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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